



SPEAKING OUT LOUD
Valley Radio Station KVCM begins its
"Professors of the Week" Series.
VISIT LAVALLEYSTAR.COM
FOR THE STORY.

lavalleystar.com

September 5, 2012

Volume 77 Issue 1



TURNING A NEW PAGE - Valley College's new Library and Academic Resource Center soars majestically over Monarch Square as students are first to use the new state of the art facility.

LIBRARY OPENS DOORS FOR NEW SEMESTER

The new 93,000 square-foot library also encompasses several services and labs.

JENNA BUMGARDNER
STAFF WRITER

After a three-year wait, Valley College celebrated this past Monday the opening of the new \$20.3 million Library and Academic Resource Center.

The 93,000 square-foot, two-story facility is one of the largest

libraries in the San Fernando Valley and boasts more than 130,000 books and hundreds of computers. It is also now home to the Academic Resources Center, which comprises the writing, reading and math labs.

"It's a wonderful, beautiful building with lots of room," said Library Department Chair Georgiana Sampler.

The library was built with sustainability in mind and features a heat-reducing roof and solar panels. A spacious reading

room and individual study rooms on the first floor were included in an attempt to enhance the atmosphere of the library, as well as computer commons on the second floor.

"Students can get all their needs met without going outside the building."

-President Sue Carleo

The complex's many resources were previously strewn throughout the campus; having them in the same location will make them a more effective tool for students to utilize, according to Yang Management, the company that oversees construction on campus.

"Students can get all their needs met without going outside the building," said Valley President Sue Carleo.

The building also houses the faculty and staff Professional Development Center and LAVC

Historical Museum—services that were formerly housed in bungalows. The bungalows, however, are being phased out as part of Valley's \$626-million renovation plan, reVitalizing Valley.

The library complex is the 27th construction project completed through reVitalizing Valley, which is funded by voter-passed propositions A and AA from 2001 and 2003 and Measure J from 2008, granting the district

[See **LIBRARY**, Page 2]

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DROP DATES

The last day to drop without incurring fees is Sept. 7 in person or Sept. 9 through the Internet.

The last day to drop with a refund of enrollment fees is Sept. 10 through the Internet.

The last day to drop without a W is Sept. 7 in person or Sept. 9 through the Internet.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW



MONARCHS LOSE

The Valley Football team lost Saturday night against the East L.A. Huskies.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

SECURITY STOPS OFF CAMPUS

Concerns over campus security come to the fore after USC killings.

RACHEL PARSONS
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

In April, two USC graduate students were shot to death five blocks west of the school. Although technically off-campus, the block where the shootings occurred is within the response area of USC's Department of Public Safety, the university's private security, which patrols blocks around USC in conjunction with the Los Angeles Police Department.

After the double homicide, critics said that USC should have done more to protect its students, even off school property. Questions were raised throughout the city about where the boundaries and responsibilities of college security departments lie. At Valley College, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department College Bureau administers security.

"The Sheriff's [Station] patrols the interior of the campus," said Deputy Rick Baker, the team leader of the Valley College Sheriff's Station. "The [LAPD] patrols the exterior, so if something happens outside the campus, from the sidewalk area, it's the responsibility of the police."

Students who live in the area or park off campus have to rely on the LAPD in an emergency situation. With just more than 18,500 enrolled students and approximately 3,300 parking spaces on campus, there are many who have to leave the school to get to their cars.

While Valley Glen is safer than the neighborhood surrounding USC, where violent crimes are more frequent.

[See **SECURITY**, Page 2]

ARTS DEAN DENNIS REED LOOKS FORWARD TO NEW TRANSITION

After more than 30 years at Valley College, the dean of fine, performing and media arts will retire this fall.

COURTNEY BASSLER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After more than 30 years in various positions at Valley College, Dennis Reed is facing a new challenge: retirement.

The current dean of fine, performing and media arts is retiring after serving in half-a-dozen positions, including instructor, art gallery director, department chair and associate dean.

"I'll probably miss the gallery the most," said Reed, who has been involved with the campus gallery for 32 years. "I'm very concerned [about it] because when I left it to go into administration, it sat empty for almost a decade, and that's a terrible waste of a great resource."

Adding to the bittersweet feelings of retirement, Reed will leave before seeing the completion of his pet project from the past decade. He spearheaded plans for the Performing and Media Arts Center, which will house a new theater, newsroom and classrooms for broadcasting and cinema students. Due to the district-wide hold on construction of new

buildings, he won't see it built before retiring this semester.

"He was really the main driver for us to get a Media Arts building," said Journalism Department Chair Rod Lyons. "We are going to lose valuable leadership."

However, Reed will have plenty to occupy his time during his retirement. He plans to work on a book that he would like to finish soon and will continue teaching his history of photography class at Valley.

"As long as they ask me to teach, I will," he said.

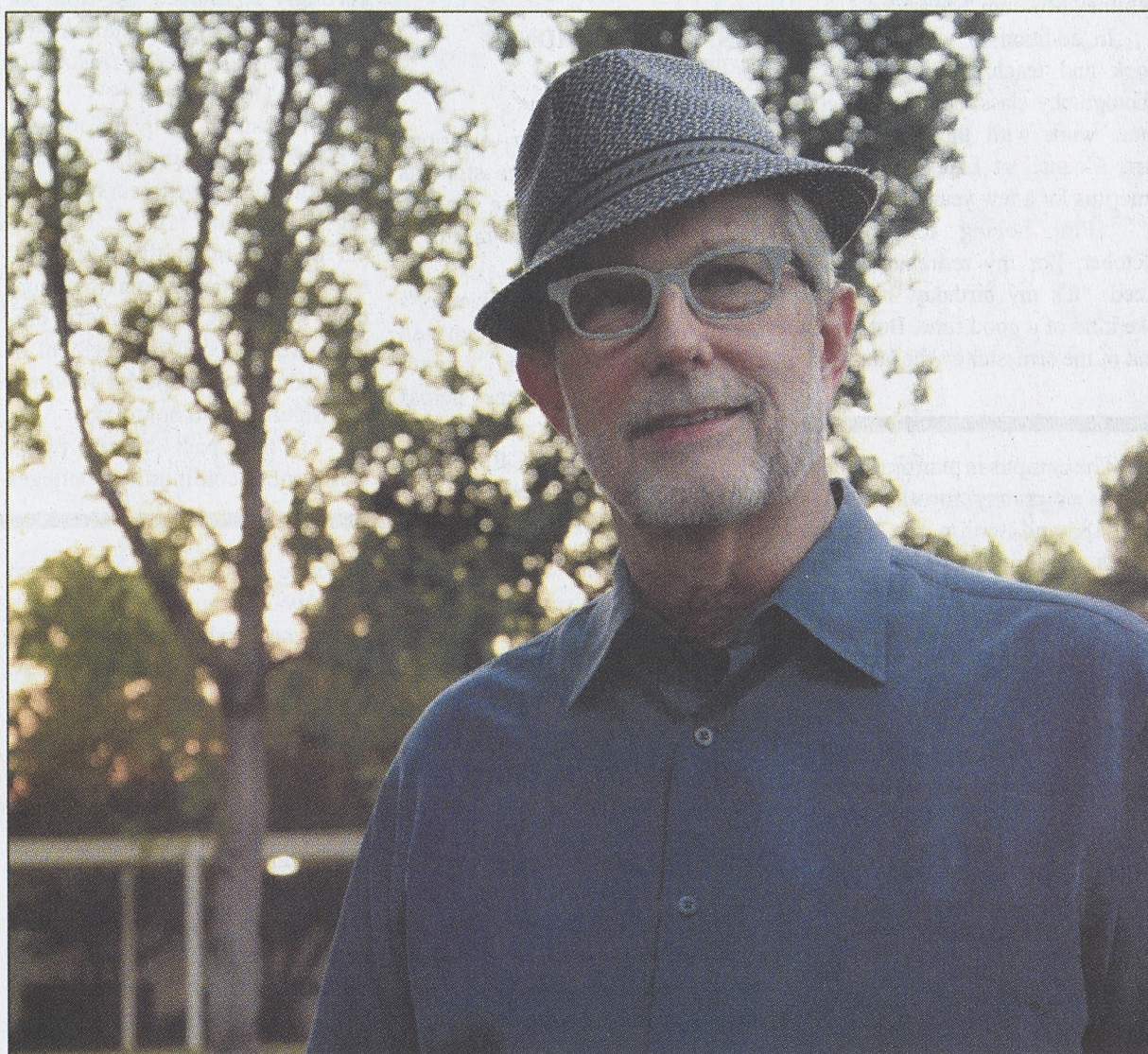
Besides still being connected to the school through teaching, his wife, Annie Reed, is also a member of the Monarchs community as associate dean of Student Services.

"I'm envious that he gets to retire," Annie Reed said. She then explained the void her husband's departure will leave for the school. "He is the most seasoned of all the deans here."

Reed started at Valley in 1980 as full-time art instructor and the art gallery director. Eight years later, he became the art department chair.

Continuing his ascend, Reed became the associate dean of Administrative Services and the executive director of the LAVC Foundation in 1991. Through his work as the associate dean, he cre-

[See **DEAN**, Page 2]



A NEW DIRECTION - Arts Dean Dennis Reed is looking forward to his retirement which is expected to be in October or by the end of the semester. He will still continue to teach his history of photography class.

FATIMA JIMENEZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the journalism and photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Materials published herein, including any opinions expressed and advertisements should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof.

Editorials are the opinion of the editorial board only and do not necessarily represent those of the entire staff. **Columns** are the opinion of the writer. **Letters** are the opinions of the reader.

Editorial and Advertising Offices are at
5800 Fulton Avenue
Valley Glen, CA 91401
(818) 947-2576.

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Courtney Bassler

COPY EDITOR
Ariel Waitkuweit

OPINION EDITOR
Kevin Jersey

SPORTS EDITOR
Romeo Gonzalez

PHOTO EDITOR
Richard Razavi

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Diana Ortega

STAFF WRITERS
Jenna Bumgardner
Julio Flores
Sanyo Hazel
Ashley Goossen
Al Mascarenas
Deziree Miller

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Loriana Ameden
Ray Blumhorst
Morris De La Roca
Maggie Hasbun
Fatima Jimenez
Antwone Mercer
JD Oroye
Erika Suplecova

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Chip Rudolph

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Michael Mkerchyan

ADVISERS
Bill Dauber, Rod Lyons

STUDENTS FACE CHALLENGE WITH PELL GRANT

Summer 2012 marked a new era for students receiving Pell Grant money.

DEZIREE MILLER
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students who receive a Pell Grant to fund their undergraduate education could, as of this summer, be facing new limitations.

The effected change is that students will be cut off after 12 semesters, which translates to about six academic years. This affects anyone who has ever received a Pell Grant at anytime and for any institution.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the Pell Grant does not have to be paid back, and it is given to low-income undergraduate students. The amount varies based on each student's need and how many units they take.

For instance, a full-time student enrolled in 12 units for two consecutive semesters will have used 100 percent of the money they received for the school year. But a student who only goes part time, enrolled in 6 units, would have used only 50 percent of the federal aid.

"This is just the rule now; they change all the time, and we do have elections coming

up this November that can very well change this," said Vernon Bridges, the Financial Aid manager at Valley.

Bridges explained this new limit is made to ensure there is still money for new, incoming students. He also mentioned students should not look at this as the end to their academic careers as it is just one form of aid, and they can seek other forms.

"I think it's a good thing that there is a limit because it kind of pressures people to finish," said psychology major Sandra Herrera.

Valley students were notified via e-mail of the new federal rule. The e-mail cautioned students to

keep this new limit in mind when selecting classes or switching majors. The e-mail sent to students this summer also stated the new limits, which were created in December 2011 when President Obama signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012.

Students who would like to keep track of their Pell Grant use can go to nsls.ed.gov/nsls_SA/. For further assistance or to address any concerns regarding the Pell Grant, visit the Financial Aid Office, which is temporarily located in a bungalow next to the North Gym, or call (818) 947-2412.

COMBATING AGAINST COMPETITION AND CUTS

With budget cuts and website competition, two bookstores detail their methods of maintaining clientele.

ARIEL WAITKUWEIT
COPY EDITOR

Increasing competition and budget cuts have led Valley College's bookstore and the local off-campus bookstore to effect changes to keep sales afloat.

According to Mary John, the on-campus bookstore's assistant manager, LAVC Bookstore's greatest competition is online. With the rising use of sites such as chegg.com, collegebookrenter.com and coursemart.com, the school's bookstore has approached bookselling in new ways to keep and draw in students.

"This is the [bookstore's] third semester renting, and it's growing. And, we're now doing it online," John said, explaining that students save money when they rent books—so long as they return them on time and don't lose them.

One student, physical therapy major Ravi Amarawansa, likes the rental approach.

"I prefer buying online; however now that they've come up with rentals, my attitude toward the bookstore has changed," he said.

Like the LAVC Bookstore, Textbooks, an independent booksell-

er just off campus at 13326 Burbank Blvd., is considering offering rentals and making a website to compete with the newer trends, according to its store manager Cloey Eo. She also said that the store is currently relying on its one-on-one customer service and tendency to sell books 10 percent cheaper—sometimes up to 40 percent cheaper—than other vendors to lure students.

Comparing the prices of two popular texts at each store, Textbooks' price for a new copy of the sixth edition of Beginning Algebra by Elayn Martin-Gay, \$149, comes in nearly 10 percent cheaper than LAVC Bookstore's, which is \$165.35. The off-campus store also offers a popular English text, the sixth edition of Pocket Style Manual by Diana Hacker, for approximately 10 percent cheaper than the on-campus store, at \$26.90 new compared to \$29.75 new.

However, the on-campus bookstore offers the option of buying a used copy for \$22.35, which is nearly 17 percent cheaper than Textbooks' price, as well as the option to rent it for the semester for \$19.40. Additionally, LAVC Bookstore allows students to return their used books for 50 percent of the price they paid through its semester-end LAVC Bookstore Buyback program, so long as the course's instructor has chosen to use that text again the following semester.

While Textbooks remains faithful to its traditional vending style,

educational budget cuts have affected the store.

"The government cuts budgets, so they cut many classes. So, that affects us too," said Eo. "Because they cut many classes, we ordered a smaller amount of books."

The campus's bookstore, however, has a different approach to budget cuts and stock.

"We have not ordered fewer books," John said. "We ordered based off sales history."

John noted that, though the store is maintaining its regular ordering system, the cuts have resulted in fewer staff members.

BOOK BREAKDOWN

THE TWO BOOKS WHOSE PRICES ARE BEING COMPARED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MATH: BEGINNING ALGEBRA BY ELAYN MARTIN-GAY, SIXTH EDITION

ENGLISH: POCKET STYLE MANUAL BY DIANA HACKER, SIXTH EDITION

LAVC BOOKSTORE:

MATH: \$165.35 NEW,
\$124.05 USED: SOLD OUT
ENGLISH: \$29.75 NEW,
\$22.35 USED: SOLD OUT
\$19.40 RENT NEW,
\$11.45 RENT USED: NOT AVAILABLE

TEXTBOOKS:

MATH: \$149, ONLY SOLD NEW
ENGLISH: \$26.90 ONLY SOLD NEW

DEAN

Continued from page 1

ated extension programs such as the EMT program—now the emergency services department. He also contributed, along with his wife, to the Paralegal and Human Resource Assistant programs.

In 1997, Reed became the dean of fine, performing and media arts. He has been in the position for more than a decade.

"Dean Dennis Reed has made a significant impact on Valley College during his career, first as a faculty member and department chair, and for the last many years as our dean of the arts," said Valley President Sue Carleo. "Without Dean Reed's commitment, we would not have had the successful art gallery, Arts Council and Public Art Committee that have added so much to what Valley brings to our students, the campus and the community."

However, Reed supervises more than the arts, including departments such as mathematics and personal development. He also manages three grants at Valley, one being the IDEAS program.

Considering Reed has been dean 15 years and handles an array of responsibilities, many are concerned as to how his position will be filled.

"I will be working with Vice President [of Academic Affairs Karen] Daar to determine how to best fill his position, but without a doubt, Dean Reed is irreplaceable," explained President Carleo. "We will miss him greatly and wish him the best as he transitions to this next phase of his life."

Although retirement is something to celebrate, some are not looking forward to the loss of this experienced dean.

rienced dean.

"I'm not happy about it," said architecture instructor Amerson Woods, who brought his students to the 48-year-old campus art gallery Thursday night. "I think he does great work. He brought in some world-famous artists [to the campus]. I'm always surprised with the quality."

Besides helping expose Valley to well-known artists, Reed also has his own collection of Japanese-American art that has been featured in many museums across the country such as New York City's Whitney Museum of American Art and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. "That all started here [at Valley]," said Reed.

While looking for art for the LAVC Art Gallery, Reed said he came across some photographs he had never seen, so he researched them at the UCLA Research Library and found that many were lost at the internment camps in the 1940s. He then began looking for the families of the artists, and found that some saved the photographs, so he was able to obtain them and put them on display at Valley.

"To my knowledge, [it is] the only exhibition that originated at a two-year school that's gone to Whitney Museum," he said.

In addition to working on his book and teaching his history of photography class, he also will continue work with the Photographic Arts Council at LACMA as chair emeritus for a few years.

"[I'm] hoping for the end October, [for my retirement]," said Reed. "It's my birthday. It seemed like kind of a good time. But, by the end of the semester by the latest."

LIBRARY

Continued from page 1

\$6 billion to modernize existing buildings and construct new, sustainable buildings. Valley's next construction endeavor will be the Athletic Training Facility, which is scheduled to start next year along with four other projects.

SECURITY

Continued from page 1

quent, there was a murder two blocks north of Valley College on Victory Boulevard in February, according to crime statistics available on the LAPD website—three blocks closer to the school than the killings at USC.

"I don't feel safe on this campus at night," said Noelle Adressen-Kale,

The campus is planning a dedication ceremony for the library Oct. 18, and within the coming weeks, personnel will be offering tours of the new facilities. The library is open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays.

a dance major at Valley, who had a wallet stolen from her bag in the Field House in the daytime during the fall 2011 semester.

Another student, Sandra Say, said she sometimes runs across the campus after her evening classes to where she gets picked up. "I try to be calm, to think that everything's going to be OK, but sometimes you just don't see anybody around and it's dark. This campus is so open;

anyone can come in. My friends have told me that they've been robbed, and their cars have been broken into at night here."

In the spring semester, vehicle burglary was the most frequent non-violent crime at Valley, along with hit-and-runs, according to the crime statistics published by the Sheriff's Station. There was one violent crime on campus: a robbery in February.

The Sheriff's Station offers an escort service. However, the sheriffs are not allowed to accompany anyone off school grounds, due to liability issues. USC offers a similar service, which extends off-campus, though it's unclear how often it is used.

Valley's officers do, howev-

er, liaise closely with the Transit Security Bureau of the Sheriff's Department, who have jurisdiction on the Orange Line of the L.A. Metro that stops at the school. "We actually share the same [radio] frequency, so communication is instant and regular," Baker said. "We do patrols 24 hours a day. We provide escorts all day, every day."

The Sheriff's Station at Valley operates with limited manpower. Budget cuts on the county level mean that there have been no new hires. There are currently two deputies, 13 armed officers and nine unarmed part-time cadets on the staff, compared with USC's department of 260 personnel—roughly 125 of who are unarmed community

service officers, similar to Valley's cadets. Valley's Sheriff's Station has access to additional officers from other LACCD campuses as needed.

Other universities, such as UCLA, which is patrolled by the Los Angeles division of the University of California Police Department, a state police agency, have forces at their disposal large enough to include a one-mile radius around each school. Their response areas also cover university-owned buildings in other parts of the city, as does USC.

At Valley, Baker urges everyone to register with the college's emergency text notification system, AlertU, through the school's website. "It's a good service to have. I encourage the entire college com-

munity to sign up for it. It's a good way to get information if there is an emergency."

Baker said there have been upgrades to lighting and signs over the past several years that he thinks have made the college safer. There are more changes coming, including emergency beacons like those that dot the landscape at schools like USC.

"You should expect the beacons very soon. They're part of the upgrades that'll be installed here at the college," he said. "I actually look forward to those; you'll see those in all of the parking lots. You'll [also] see more lighting around campus coming and less bushes and trees."

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff or students.

FAIRNESS IS IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER

Valley's lottery system for adding classes may not be fair, but it makes the best of a bad situation.

SANYO HAZEL
STAFF WRITER

Fairness is a lot like beauty: it's all in the eyes of the beholder. And so it is for the "lottery" system at Valley College, a system of randomly drawing names from a hat to determine who will be added to a class.

Those who are smiled upon favorably like this system while those who do not get their way are left frustrated and forced to scramble to come up with a "plan B" as they desperately seek to add some other class. Meanwhile, well-meaning instructors push the limits by sometimes adding more students than they should.

It is shameful that the richest country in the world, the United States of America, doesn't make education a higher priority. Instead of investing in education, the government robs the education system. It seems like the budget cuts made on the backs of students just keep coming. It's no secret that ongoing bud-



JENNA BUMGARDNER | VALLEY STAR

STUDENTS GET CLASS SCHEDULES SORTED - The lottery system decides who can add a class and who gets left out.

get cuts have led to fewer classes being available to students. In addition, priority registration is rightly given to Extended Opportunities Programs and Services, students who received low test scores on their English or math placement tests, and Disabled Students Programs and Services students. However, this leaves even fewer

spots for other students, making it clear they must be well organized and ready with a back-up plan.

That the lottery system exists at all points to a bigger issue. Education is becoming increasingly unavailable as statewide cuts continue to ravage the California Community Colleges System. There seems to be an

increasing expectation for students to "make due" with what's left, grasping at straws to find a seat in a class, any class. Clearly, there is a high demand for certain courses, particularly math and English. Where that high demand exists, sections should be added.

It is unacceptable that students should waste time taking classes

they don't want or need just to have the number of units required. And it is unacceptable that those who continue to cut class availability offer no solution. For many, the California Community Colleges System is their only hope of achieving higher education and perhaps even breaking the cycle of poverty in their families.

In previous years, "first come, first served" methods were used. If a class was full, a student attempting to enroll was automatically placed on a waiting list. Or, if you were an "early bird" who arrived on the first day of class and started an "add list" before the instructor even arrived, you very likely received an add card.

Not anymore. The lottery system for adding students to classes may not be ideal. But with so much competition for so few highly coveted seats, it's the best, most fair system at this time. Until lawmakers do the right thing and budgets are at least partly restored and classes added, students must all work together to navigate this unpredictable system that presents all students with an opportunity to learn the value of one of the most important things school can teach: perseverance.

CUTTING TO THE BONE...

SCHOOLS GOING NOWHERE FAST

Wasteful spending is approved while education cuts continue.

KEVIN JERSEY

As California struggles to dig itself out of the financial hole caused by the recent recession, choosing where to spend the limited funds that are available becomes a matter of deciding what is most important for the state and its residents. Sadly, recent decisions have shown that students are low on that list of priorities.

Despite budget cuts that have forced the state's universities and community colleges to cut classes and limit enrollment, Gov. Jerry Brown and the state Senate have somehow discovered \$8 billion to fund construction of a controversial high-speed train that would run between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

California's educational woes are being felt at all levels, including community colleges that have seen \$809 million in cuts since 2008, and face the possibility of \$338 million in additional cuts, according to the Los Angeles Times. Schools have attempted to counter some of the decreased funding by increasing student fees, but even a 28-percent tuition increase has done little to offset the cuts. As a result, fewer classes are being offered and fewer students are able to enroll at state community colleges.

"There is no question that the system is shrinking in terms of the number of students we're serving but not shrinking in terms of demand," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott. "The real problem is we don't have the financial resources to offer the courses that we could fill. In the long run, it's going to be hurtful to the economy. These are the individuals who are going to make up the future workforce of California."

Yet instead of education, Brown and the Senate are funding a train that, like California students, seems to be going nowhere. The proposed train, intended to travel at speeds up to 220 miles per hour, has been plagued by delays and swelling costs. This has led many who initially supported the project to now see it as wasteful and unnecessary, especially in light of the recent economic downturn.

Forbes reports that an initial budget estimate of \$45 billion ballooned to nearly \$100 billion before public outcry caused it to be trimmed back down to \$68 billion. In order to meet this lower figure, the train would have to travel much slower and use existing track, defeating the entire purpose of the project. Even using tracks already in place, the project would not be completed until at least 2028, tying up state funds for years to come, including funds that could be used for education.

The L.A. Times has reported that 59 percent of voters would reject the idea if it were placed back on the ballot. Its polling also shows that spending on the high-speed rail project could "dampen voters' enthusiasm for Brown's tax increases on the November ballot." These are the very same proposed tax increases that would serve as a life preserver to California schools that are struggling to keep their heads above water. Californians have grown tired of wasteful projects that take much-needed money away from schools. If projects like the proposed high-speed train continue, it is students who will be stopped dead in their tracks.

E-mail Kevin Jersey at k.jersey@lavalleystar.com. Send general comments to valleystar@lavalleystar.com.

NO CONVENTION SPEECH FOR RON PAUL

A presidential candidate was invited to the Republican Convention but was not allowed to speak.

JULIO FLORES
STAFF WRITER

Former presidential candidate Ron Paul (R-Texas) was offered a speaking slot at the 2012 Republican National Convention but only if he allowed the Mitt Romney camp to pre-approve his comments and only if he offered an endorsement of Mitt Romney. Ron Paul, not wishing to do so, declined the offer to speak.

The Republican Party is so afraid of what Ron Paul might say that they saw a need to pre-approve his comments. The party waves the banner of freedom yet censors one of its own. The RNC should have used this opportunity to help promote diversity in the party since each candidate appealed to a differ-

ent audience in the primaries, and those differences could have been brought together at the convention to promote unity within the party.

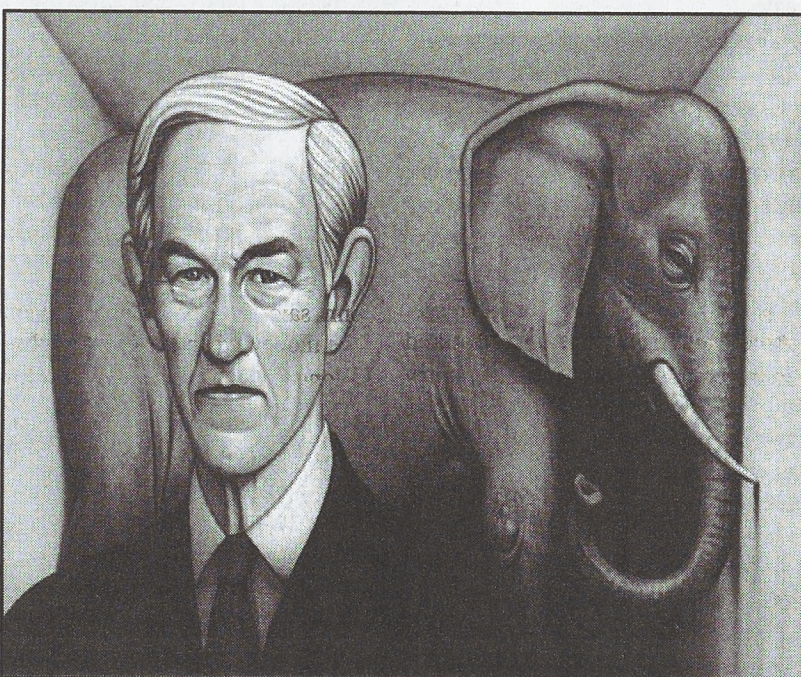
The RNC did try to appease Paul. He did get a tribute video played during the convention, which more than likely was pre-approved, but the slotting of the video was before the prime-time broadcasts. Therefore, no national audience could see it, but the Republicans could say they gave him some time.

Chants of "Let Paul speak" were heard from the floor of the convention Tuesday afternoon as he meandered through his constituents from Minnesota, Nevada, Iowa, Maine and his home state of Texas. Some Paul supporters left the floor of the convention, disgusted at the way things were handled. It was no secret that Romney was going to win the nomination, so there would have been no harm in recognizing the efforts the other candidates made during the primaries as well.

The Republicans make themselves look bad by controlling the process. They want to make it very difficult for grass-roots efforts to be effective in the future, alienating a portion of their own party. This control is appalling and promotes the thought that if someone doesn't believe as they do, that person should be silenced or even removed for not being part of the status quo.

Further illustrating this control is the fact that even though Paul did not win any states outright, he had enough delegates to have his name submitted for the nomination. Yet, the RNC denied him that right. Paul received 20 of Maine's 24 spots. The RNC decided to replace 10 of them, stopping the state from being able to submit Paul's name for nomination. In response, the state's Republican governor, a Romney supporter, boycotted the convention, feeling that his state was slighted.

The RNC passed rules to ensure delegates are bound by the

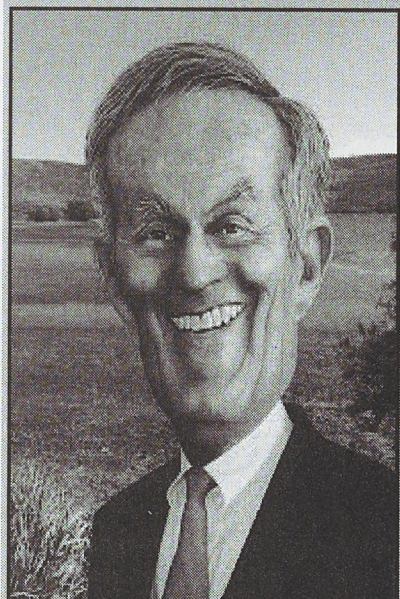


COURTESY OF PEACEMAKERSINSTITUTE.COM

outcome of states' primaries and caucuses. This change still has to be approved by the convention but would, in effect, shut out candidates like Ron Paul from getting delegate support in states when they do not win the state's nomination.

It is a shame that the Republican Party does not wish for anyone in its party to think outside the box and wishes to trounce any difference in opinion.

POLITICIANS SHOW IGNORANCE, SPREAD MISINFORMATION ABOUT RAPE



COURTESY OF FLICKR.COM

Rape comments become a hot-button topic in politics.

DEZIREE MILLER
STAFF WRITER

Ladies no longer need fret about unwanted pregnancies, at least not according to six-term congressional member Todd Akin (R-Mo.), who claims the uterus has the power to detect unwanted sperm and repel it.

In a televised interview, Rep. Akin, who is now running for the Senate, explained that he would not let his pro-life stance waver for any circumstance, and he has supported proposed laws that would outlaw abortion, including instances when women may become pregnant as a result of rape. Instead, he believes rape victims cannot become pregnant and therefore do not need abortions.

"It seems to me first of all, from what I understand from doctors, that's really rare," Akin said. "If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to shut that whole thing down."

It is frightening that someone so out of touch with reality is able to gain a position of power to make uninformed decisions about women's bodies. However, Akin is not the only one, as vice presidential hopeful Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Rep. Stephen King (R-Iowa) have also done their share of putting their feet in their mouths this month on women's issues. Ryan has run into controversy after calling rape a "method of conception" in an NBC interview, and King told CBS that he has never heard of instances in which

young victims become pregnant after statutory rape or incest.

These statements are, to say the least, uneducated, irresponsible and offensive. Akin could not have truly consulted doctors, as anyone who went through sex education in school, and especially medical school, would know that a uterus is incapable of differentiating a rapist's sperm from that of a consensual partner and that rape could indeed still result in pregnancy for a woman.

"If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to shut that whole thing down."

-Todd Akin
Congressional Member, R-Mo.

It is irrational and thoughtless of him to promote the idea that a woman who is raped cannot get pregnant to justify his pro-life views. He should explain the 32,104 pregnancies the Rape and Incest National Network estimates result annually from rape. Another important factor is the amount of

rapes that go unreported. In fact, RAINN estimates that only 30 percent of rapes are reported, which means the actual number of pregnancies could be even higher.

By Akin's logic, when a "legitimate rape" occurs, a female victim would not become pregnant. This discredits the rape of female victims who do become pregnant. Akin is definitely not an authority on rape or sexual assault, and his views are offensive to women who have already suffered from such a traumatic event.

This generation of women is still struggling to maintain its rights after these attacks despite how far women have come, and in this way society seems to be moving backward. But women are fighting back; there was a march for women's rights by Women Organized to Resist and Defend two weekends ago in Hollywood as a response to the Republicans' recent charges. The upcoming election may also be another platform for women to make sure they get their views across. After all, a uterus can't do everything.

"It seems to me first of all, from what I understand from doctors, that's really rare."

-Todd Akin
Congressional Member, R-Mo.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Letters to the editor can be sent to editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

September
Wednesday, 5

LAVC Student Show 2012
11 a.m. - 2 p.m., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Fall 2010 Opening of Free
Concert Wednesdays
 LAVC Art Gallery
 Sponsored by the LAVC Art
 Gallery
 (818) 778-5536

Thursday, 6
LAVC Student Show 2012
11 a.m. - 2 p.m., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
LAVC Art Gallery
Sponsored by the LAVC Art
Gallery
(818) 778-5536

ASU Inter-Club Council (ICC)
Meeting
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Campus Center 104
Sponsored by the LAVC
Associated Student Union
(ASU)
(818) 778-5516

Friday, 8
Self-Help Valley Group for
Adults with Epilepsy
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Faculty Lounge
Sponsored by the Epilepsy
Foundation of Greater Los
Angeles
(310) 670-2870

Saturday, 9
Writers Conference
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Campus Center Rooms 4-12,
104, 202 and 206
Sponsored by the LAVC IDEAS
Program

Sunday, 10
Writers Conference
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Campus Center Rooms 4-12,
104, 202 and 206
Sponsored by the LAVC IDEAS
Program

Construction on the Student Services Complex has sent its services to temporary offices and is another hassle for students to face at the beginning of the fall semester.

ASHLET GOOSSEN
STAFF WRITER

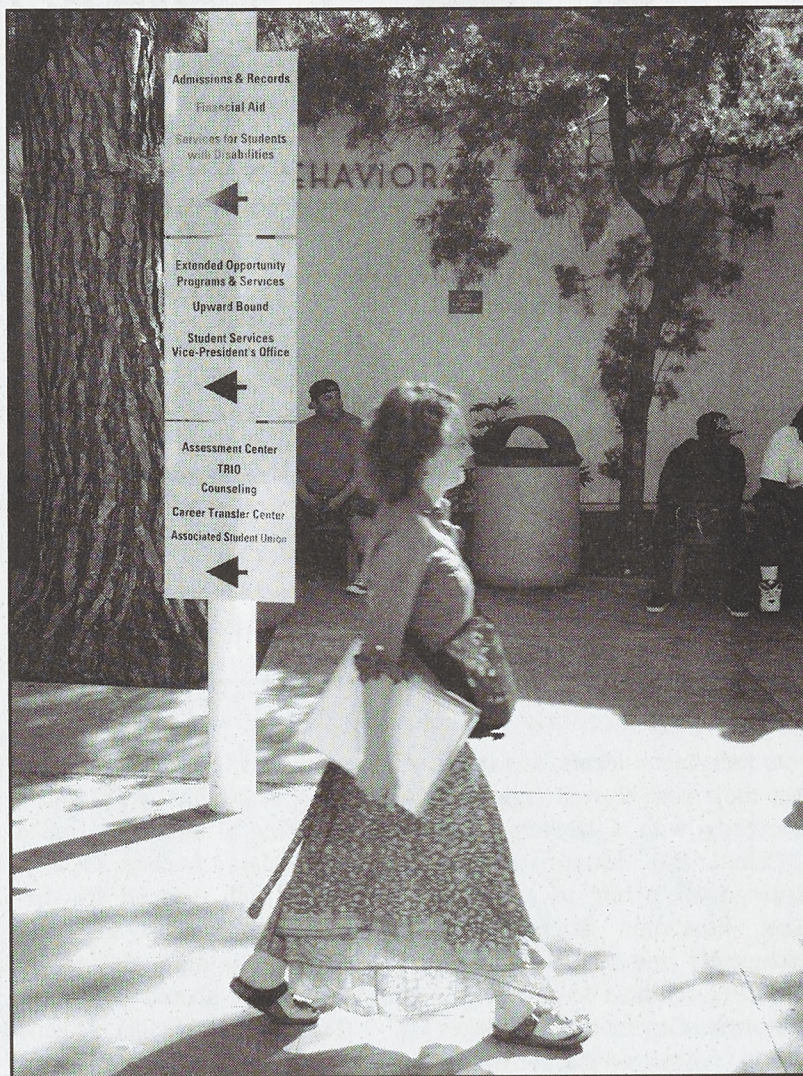
Students looking for any number of student services normally located in the Student Services Complex—such as Admissions & Records, Financial Aid and Counseling—may have to hunt for them dispersed around campus due to construction.

Construction on the Student Services Complex, which began April 10, has changed a great portion of the campus's layout. The dissembling of the complex's offerings has made the beginning of the semester even more hectic than usual for students, as well as faculty and staff, and is affecting each department's goal of helping the students.

"It is really hard for the students," said Valley College counselor Joyce Romero. "The move from building to building has caused loss of appointment time for students because they are unaware of where the Counseling office is temporarily located."

For the time being, Admissions & Records and Counseling can both be found in the former Administration Building, while Financial Aid can be found in the same temporary trailer next to the North Gym in which it was located before moving into the Student Services Center.

Because the Student Services Complex, which consists of two buildings—the Student Services Center and Student Services Annex—just opened in fall 2010, there has been some confusion as to



ANTWONE MERCER | VALLEY STAR

SIGN OF THE TIMES - With the Student Services Complex under construction, signs adorn campus directing students to the services' temporary locations.

why there is a renovation, especially with district building holds.

The renovation is being done to construct a canopy outside the structure to provide shade.

"I think it's crazy," said undecided major Tessa Bohling, "that unnecessary renovation is being done to a part of the campus that holds so many important services that students need, especially during the beginning of the year."

Other services that are affected by the move include the Career/Transfer Center and Associated Student Union, which can both

be found in the Administration Building.

The Services for Students with Disabilities is currently located in the Campus Center, and the Assessment Center, SSS/TRiO Program and Student Services vice president's office can be found in the Lion's Den in the Monarch Café.

The services will be in their temporary locations until the first week of October when construction is expected to be finished. For updates on campus construction, visit www.lavc.edu/revitalizingvalley/constructionupdates.html.

Vahe Matevosyan carries on a family legacy as a third generate ASU president.

ROMEO GONZALEZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Associated Student Union President Vahe Matevosyan may be new to the position, but he is no stranger to Valley College's student government.

Aside from previously serving as the ASU's chief justice, his current position was formerly held by his cousin Norvan Berkezyan in 2010 and his sister Hanna Matevosyan in 2011.

"I think he will do a good job," said Berkezyan. "I see a lot of enthusiasm coming from Vahe."

After seeing the role held by his family members, Matevosyan believes it is essential for ASU members to reach out to the rest of the student body to get them more involved outside the classroom.

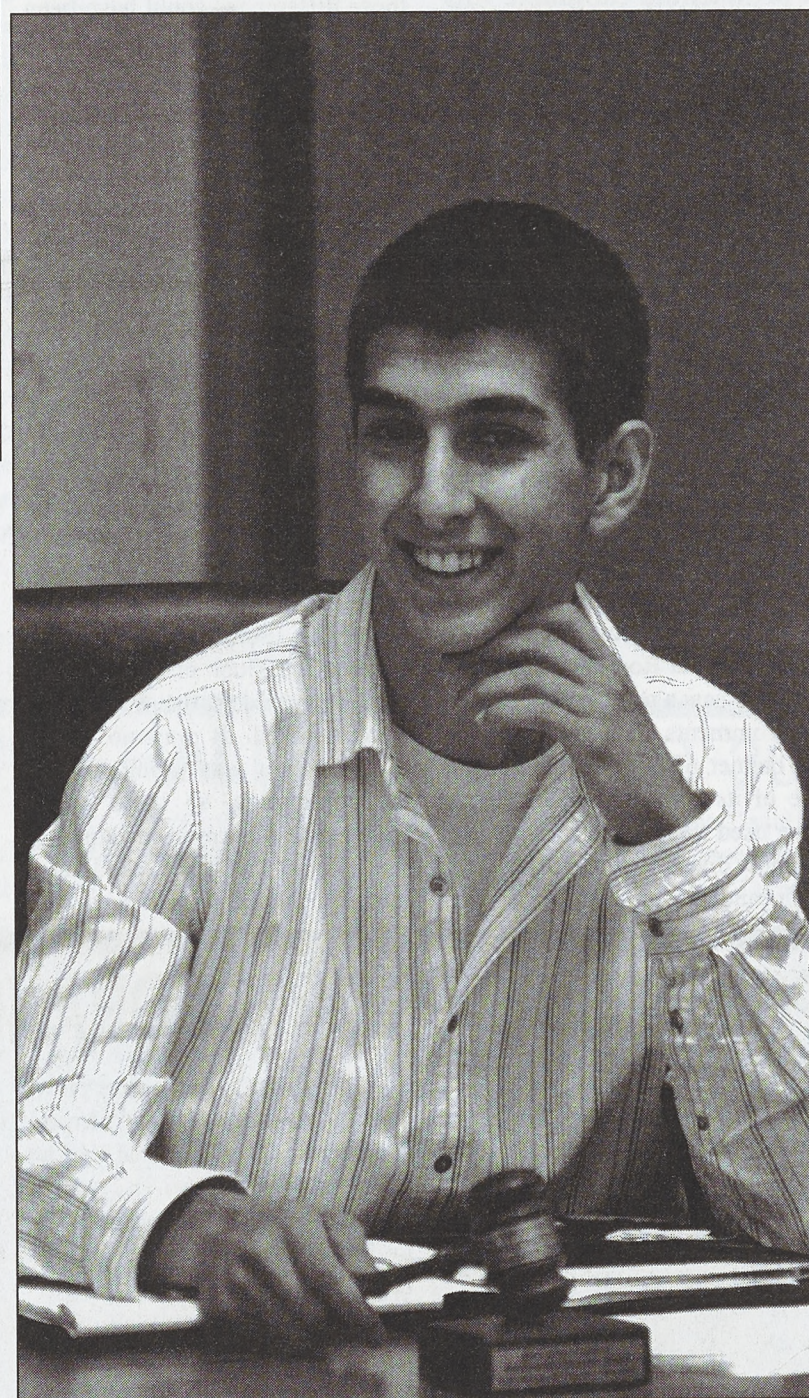
“Most students do not know about the ASU; they come take their classes and go home,” said Matevosyan. “I joined [the ASU] to get involved with the school.

One of the things the new ASU president hopes to fix is the union's relationship with the Inter-Club Council, a branch of the ASU. Matevosyan also has a list of duties he must tend to. One of his weekly tasks is chairing the ASU meetings in which his fellow union members will accompany him on the Executive Council.

"I am hoping for the best," said ASU Commissioner of Fine Arts Anne Tufenkjian. "I'm looking forward to the new school year."

Matevosyan has also been elected as the vice president of the California Community Colleges Student Senate region that comprises all Southern California two-year schools. He represents Valley and its delegates.

"I see this as a new year," said Matevosyan. "It is a clean slate."



ANTWONE MERCER | VALLEY STA

NEW REIGN - Incoming ASU President Vahe Matevosyan is planning a fresh term as the campus' new student leadership.

☐ Good Idea.

Great Idea.

☐ All of the above.

Enroll in Trinity Law School in the Fall.

You can attend law school upon completion of your Associates Degree. Go straight to law school. Save time, save money, and get a great education with unlimited opportunities.

TRINITY LAW SCHOOL
2200 North Grand Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705
800.922.4748 | www.TLS.edu

INTERESTED IN WRITING, EDITING, DESIGN OR PHOTOGRAPHY?

JOIN THE  VALLEY STAR

VALLEYSTAR@LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

VALLEY COLLEGE MONARCHS LOSE TO EAST LOS ANGELES HUSKIES IN SEASON OPENER

ROMEO GONZALEZ
SPORTS EDITOR

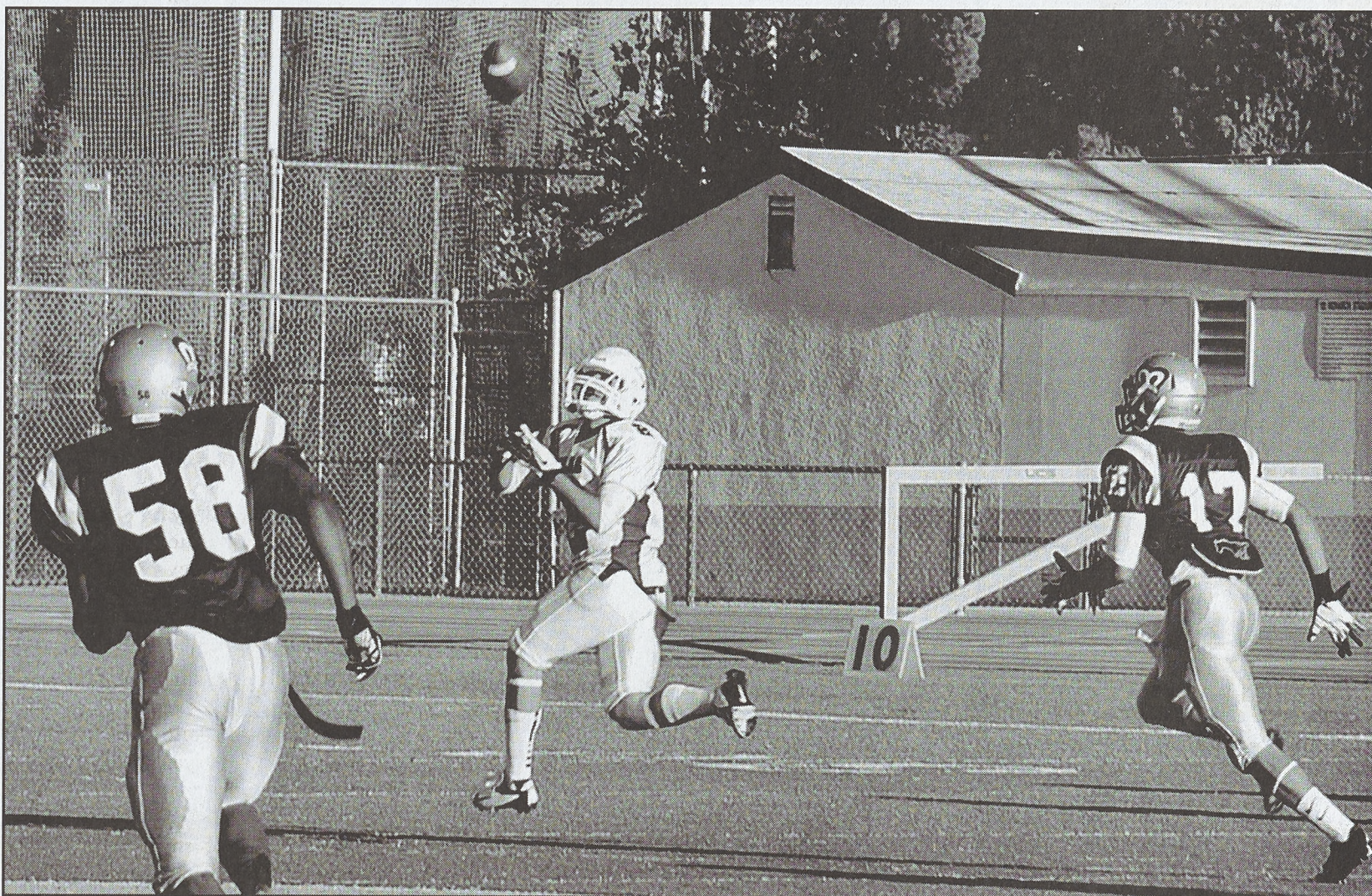
Survivor's "Eye Of The Tiger" played in the background as the unseasoned Monarchs stepped onto the gridiron, but unlike Rocky, there was no victory on Saturday as the Monarchs dropped its season opener to East Los Angeles College 40-13.

"The first game is always tough," said first-year Valley College coach Larry Kerr. "We had a lot of inexperienced guys playing for the first time, but I thought we battled well the first half."

Valley started with the ball but could not get its offense flowing for a first down, as Monarchs sophomore running back Malcolm Thomas was kept in the backfield by the Huskies' defense. The teams remained scoreless until Valley got inside East L.A.'s 10-yard line where the Monarchs recovered their own fumble to take the lead 6-0 with 6:42 left in the first quarter.

The Monarchs' lead did not last long as East L.A. quarterback Aaron Cantu and company orchestrated an offensive drive. After multiple completions to wide receiver Alexander Villalobos and running back Oliver Preston, the Huskies got inside Valley's 10-yard line.

East L.A.'s Preston ran for a short 8 yards, and an extra point



A FOR EFFORT - The Valley College Monarchs lost the first of the season to East Los Angeles Saturday, 13-40. Their second game is Saturday at 6 p.m.

pushed the Huskies up 7-6.

The Huskies' momentum continued in the second quarter as their offense put together a 76-yard drive,

aided by two defensive penalties on the Monarchs, resulting in an East L.A. touchdown.

"I thought the penalties hurt

us [overall]," said Valley linebacker coach Rory Barnett. "On third down we jumped offside twice and gave them [a total of three] first downs,

resulting in two touchdowns."

Monarch freshman quarterback Kwamhe Davis quickly answered, connecting with freshman wide

receiver Spencer Elrod for a 62-yard drive to score Valley's second touchdown, tying the game at 13 midgame.

The Huskies continued their offensive attack in the third quarter, getting inside the Monarchs' 10-yard line with 10:55 left to play. East L.A. scored on a completed 5-yard pass to wide receiver Bryan Munoz, giving them a 20-13 advantage.

Valley showed its inexperience when its freshman quarterback Bradley Hunt fumbled the ball. The Monarchs' turnover resulted in a touchdown by the Huskies' defensive back Kenneth Moore, creating a 26-13 lead.

"I think this was a turning point in the game," said Kerr. "This gave them a two-score lead, and they had a lot of momentum going. We couldn't answer after that."

Valley looked for ways to put points on the board in the second half but could not get its offense going. East L.A. rallied to score two more touchdowns in the remainder of the game, including one late in the fourth quarter, securing the win.

"We have a good group of young guys, and we just have to continue to grow," said Kerr. "We took a tough one tonight, but we will [be] back and ready to go."

The Monarchs will next play the Southwestern College Jaguars Saturday at 6 p.m.

FOOTBALL COACH NAMED NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Valley College's former head football coach, Jim Fenwick, is now the sports department's new athletic director.

ARIEL WAITKUWEIT
COPY EDITOR

Putting his 35-plus years of coaching experience to a new use, former Monarchs football coach Jim Fenwick has taken over retiree Diedra Stark's position as Valley College's athletic director.

"I wear a lot of hats," Fenwick said regarding his new position. "I am the liaison between athletics, coaches and sports, and administration, transportation and budgets."

Fenwick added that, along with being the link between various departments on campus, some other new duties include being in contact with the California Collegiate Athletic Association and making sure athletes are registered and pass their physicals.

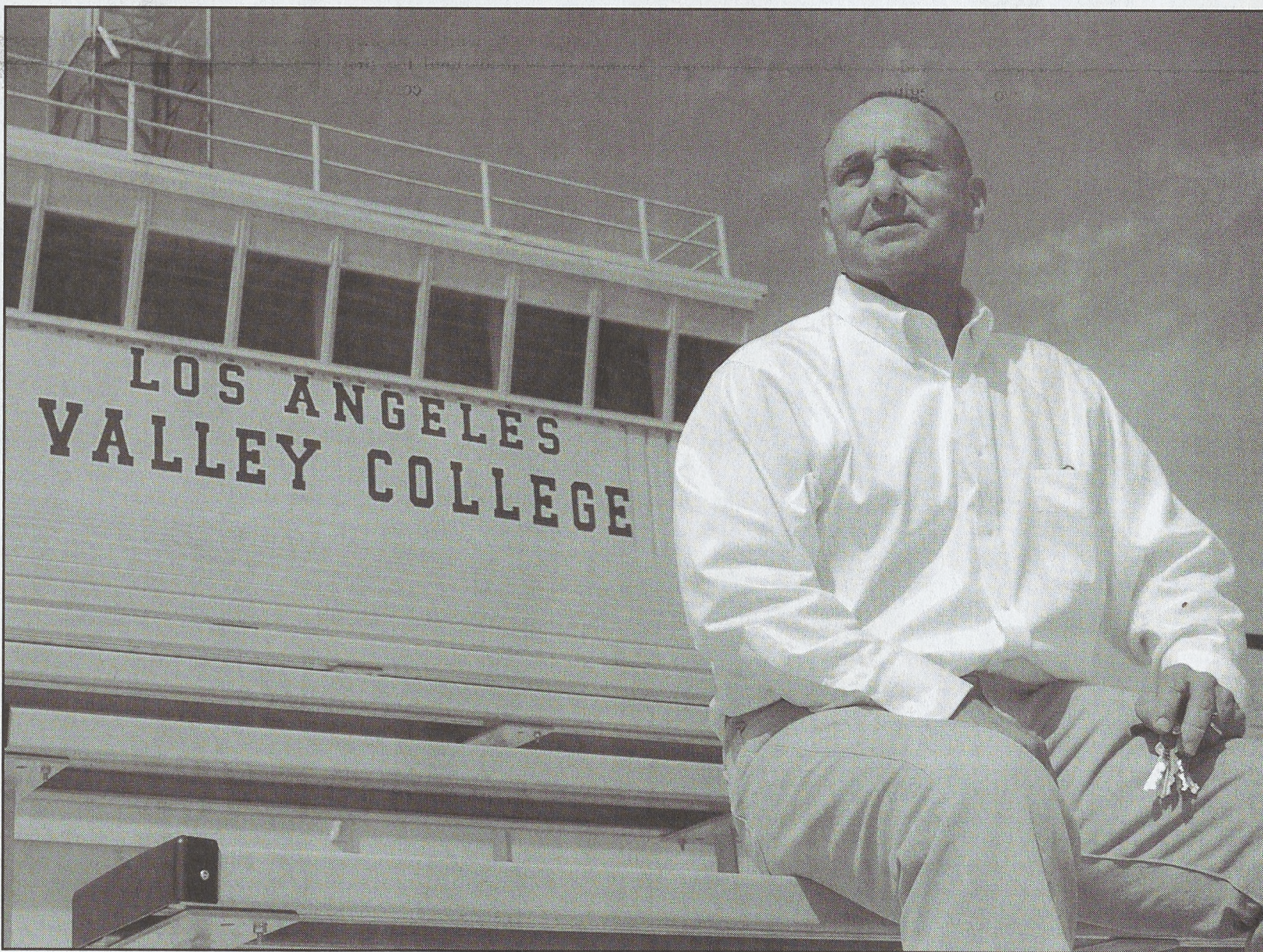
Although being the athletic director requires him to communicate with multiple people daily, Fenwick does miss one thing about being a coach.

"I miss the day-to-day interaction with the players," he said, "coaching the kids ... the games and the strategies ... you know, the fun stuff."

According to Fenwick, one of the most rewarding things about having been a coach for many years was seeing student-athletes receive their degrees or transfer. Fenwick—who previously worked at colleges such as Pierce College, CSUN and East Oregon University—still has contact with students from Pierce's 1984 Hall of Fame, among others.

"I've got so many good built relationships with student-athletes," said Fenwick. "That's where I get rich coaching."

Bret Visciglia, a former quarterback for Valley during the 2008 and 2009 seasons, thinks Fenwick's ability to motivate



MONARCH OF MONARCHS - Former football coach Jim Fenwick now sits atop the bleachers as the newly appointed Valley College athletic director and looks to bring his desire to provide an enriching student-athlete experience to the athletic department.

others will get him far in his new position and that his passion for the students raises the commitment level of the players.

"He's very passionate about L.A. Valley College," said Visciglia. "He came in my sophomore year ... right off the bat, he changed the culture."

Visciglia, whose brother Kyle Visciglia is a coach at Valley, said now that Fenwick is the school's athletic director, he will be able to inspire that same commitment level for the other sports teams on campus as he did for the football program.

"He really cared for you as a person and not just as a player," said Bret Visciglia, who transferred to Chapman University.

Sports Information Director

Dale Beck, who has known Fenwick since 1994, thinks Fenwick's professionalism, especially the ability to communicate with a variety of people that he learned through his years of coaching, will help ease the transition into his new position.

"As a coach, he's a master at working with individuals of all levels, both as an instructor and as a motivator," Beck said. "This unique ability will definitely serve as a transferrable skill as he begins his new job working with both the athletic staff and the college community."

Fenwick passed his head Monarchs football coach title to Larry Kerr, a former UCLA and Colorado State University coach.

MONARCH SCHEDULE

Football:

Saturday, Sept. 8
@ Chula Vista 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 15
@ San Jacinto 1 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 22
vs. Santa Barbara
@ Valley

Saturday, Sept. 29
vs. Antelope Valley
@ Valley 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 13
@ Pierce 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 20
vs. Santa Monica
@ Valley 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 27
vs. Glendale
@ Valley 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 3
@ West Los Angeles 1 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 10
@ Los Angeles Southwest
6 p.m.

Cross Country:
Saturday, Sept. 8
Fresno Invitational
@ Woodward Park 9 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 15
Orange Coast Invitational
@ Fairview Park 9 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 21
Gold West Invitational
@ Central Park 10 a.m.

Friday, Oct. 5
Mt. SAC Invitational
@ Mt. SAC 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 23
WSC Finals
@ Santa Barbara City College 3 p.m.

INTERESTED IN WRITING,
EDITING, DESIGN OR
PHOTOGRAPHY?

JOIN THE VALLEY STAR



VALLEYSTAR@LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

LIBRARY AND ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER OPENS



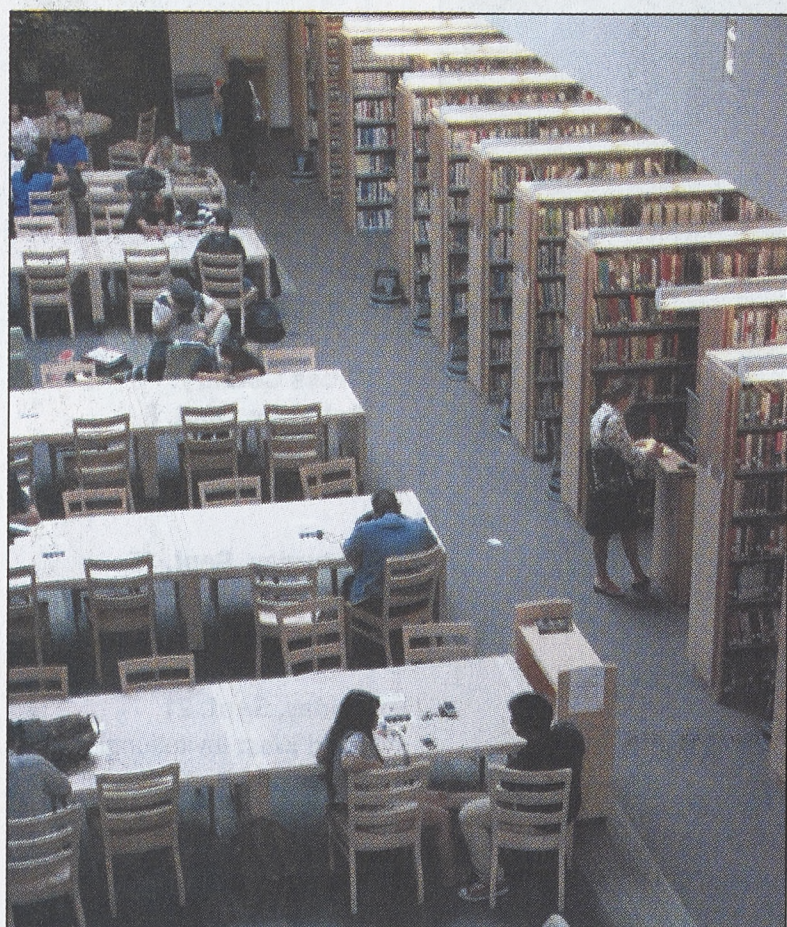
NEW BUILDING ON CAMPUS - Students walked past the new Library and Academic Resource Center, which took three years to build. It opened Aug. 27, the first day of classes. RAY BLUMHORST | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



OPEN FOR BUSINESS - Students were interested to check out the new Library and Academic Resource Center. The library complex is the 27th building through funding of voter-passed propositions A and AA. FATIMA JIMENEZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



TAKING ADVANTAGE - A student used the Library and Academic Resource Center between classes on the first week of school. The library contains the faculty and staff Professional Development Center and the LAVC Historical Museum. FATIMA JIMENEZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



SKYVIEW - The Library and Academic Resource Center is one of the largest libraries in the San Fernando Valley, encompassing 93,000 square feet and housing 130,000 books and hundreds of computers. RAY BLUMHORST | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



WORKING HARD OR HARDLY WORKING - Students gathered around one of the many tables of the 93,000 square-foot Library and Academic Resource Center. There are individual study rooms on the first floor and a computer commons on the second floor. RAY BLUMHORST | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER